



Date: Tuesday 30 January 2024

Time: 18:00 – 20:00

Venue: 26 Bedford Way – G03

Education Zone

Minutes

Chair: Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer

Members:	P	AP	AB
Ahmad Ismail, Equity & Inclusion Officer	X		
Anji Suri, Trans Officer	X		
Bella Qureshi, Faculty of Laws UG Rep			X
Connar Mawer, Faculty of Medical Sciences PGR Rep (Non-Clinical)	X		
Diksha Shahakar, Faculty of Arts and Humanities PGT Rep	X		
Elisa de Aragao Bibay, Women's Officer	X		
Ellen Durban, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences PGR Rep	X		
Emma Pearlstone, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences PGT Rep	X		
George Ponodath and Fahm Deen, Faculty of Medical Sciences UG Rep (Clinical)	X		
Georgina Wilson-Cousins, Faculty of the Built Environment PGT Rep	X		
Guner Mertcan, Faculty of Population Health Sciences UG Rep			X
Hilary Tang, Faculty of Arts and Humanities UG Rep	X		
Huihuang Jia, Faculty of Arts and Humanities PGR Rep		X	
Issy Smith, Postgraduate Officer	X		
Jacqui Lee, Institute of Education PGT Rep			X
Jianing Zhou, Institute of Education PGR Rep	X		
Kerem Isik & Yuvraj Jadeja, Faculty of Life Sciences UG Rep		X	
Lilia Dimitrov, Faculty of Population Health Sciences PGR Rep			X
Luna De La Llama Kempeneers, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Manya Gupta, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences UG Rep	X		
Menglong Bao, Institute of Education UG Rep	X		
Micah Gerstner, LGBTQ+ Officer	X		
Michael Chan, Faculty of Life Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Mihika Kulkarni, Faculty of Brain Sciences PGT Rep			X
Naif Alrehaili, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences PGR Rep	X		
Omar Abbas, Faculty of the Built Environment PGR Rep	X		
Padhmaja Varadaraj Ravichandar, Faculty of Population Health Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Philip Greger and Suzanna Chen, Disabled Students' Officer			X
Pranshu Goyal, Faculty of Engineering PGT Rep	X		
Preetika Bharti, Faculty of Laws PGT Rep	X		
Rawleka Wilson and Rachel Lim, People of Colour Students' Officer			X
Rong Zhou, Faculty of Engineering UG Rep	X		
Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer, Chair	X		
Shirui Fan, Faculty of Medical Sciences PGT Rep	X		
Solon Tono Fountzopoulos, Faculty of Medical Sciences UG Rep (Non-Clinical)	X		
Sophie-Jayne Bush, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences UG Rep		X	
Tianxin Pu, Faculty of Brain Sciences UG Rep	X		
Vi Wang, Faculty of the Built Environment UG Rep			X
Yasmin Garcia-Sterling, Research Students' Officer	X		
Yolanne Lee, Faculty of Engineering PGR Rep	X		
Youssef Abadalla, Faculty of Life Sciences PGR Rep	X		

Quorum: 21

In Attendance:
Jeff Saddington-Wiltshire, Representation & Democracy Manager
Jayne Flowers, Representation & Democracy Coordinator
Matthew Phuklaewkla, Democracy Assistant (minutes)
Aria Xingni Shi, Activities & Engagement Officer
Lizzie Vinton, Programme Excellence Project Lead
Peter Fitch, Programme Excellence Project Lead

Actions Log 2023/24	Responsibility	Update due:
Speak to UCL about involving students in the construction of a new Union building	SC	29/02/24

Preliminary matters

1. Welcome and Introductions

Education Officer Shaban Chaudhary (SC) warmly welcomed all members to the Education Zone.

Officer Updates and Questions

2. Education Officer

SC gave updates on a few items:

- First phase of new Union building has been approved and currently working with architect
- Paid opportunities will be available for students to get involved with their respective faculties on the Portfolio and Curriculum Reviews as [Programme Excellence Project \(PEP\)](#) Student Fellows
- A combined Education and Welfare Zone will take place on 8th February to discuss the EC 'Free Passes'
- Korean language has now been added to [CLIE](#) Evening Classes, starting from next month
- The manifesto for the [Russell Group Student Union \(RGSU\)](#) will be finalized soon and planning is in pipeline to launch it soon. Elections for the Mayor of London are also taking place soon, so plans are to hold hustings for this at UCL.

3. Equity & Inclusion Officer

Ahmad Ismail (AI) gave updates on a few items:

- Current work on integrating pronouns across all UCL systems.
- Helping to grow the [Hall Community Officer programme](#)
- Conversations with those responsible for rent in student accommodation to ensure a rent freeze and fairer prices
- After the [Impartial Chairs trip to Northern Ireland](#), AI is working on making a community guideline framework for external speaker events
- Brought to members' attention to the [Eugenics Legacy Education Project](#) and invited those who are interested in decolonising the curriculum to take part
 - Faculty of the Built Environment PGT Rep Georgina Wilson-Cousins (GWC) asked AI if this will be a paid opportunity and he said yes, for some aspects.

4. Postgraduate Officer

Issy Smith (IS) gave the following updates:

- Kicking off Postgrad events for Term 2
- Setting up Postgrad working groups across the Union to increase engagement
- Setting up new Postgrad Society
- Work on the Extenuating Circumstances (EC) 'Free Pass' policy, which is currently in the formulation stage and will go towards different committees for discussion
- Holding conversations about how to make education at UCL more research-led
- Currently researching the university experience for mature students.
- Looking to set up more Postgrad academic rep lunchtime meet and greets.

Matters for Discussion, pt. 1

5. Programme Excellence Project (PEP)

Project Leads Peter Fitch and Lizzie Vinton gave an overview of the [Programme Excellence Project \(PEP\)](#). They asked students for their feedback on the current curriculum; some of the following responses were:

- Some assessments are worth 100% of a module, which is not a good way to assess
- More consideration of the travel time between lectures on campus or even physically attending a lecture, for students with disabilities

- More research opportunities should be given to undergraduate students
- More in-built support across all courses for those who work or having caring responsibilities

The complete set of feedback was noted by the PEP Leads; they thanked members for their inputs and discussion and said that this feedback would be shared with the relevant people.

Matters for Information

6. Outcomes From and Inputs to UCL Committees

SC highlighted to members that the [Education Committee](#) will be meeting on Thursday to discuss Academic Flexibility for Elite Athletes.

SC also asked members for their feedback on some of the following guidelines for assessment and feedback, which will be discussed at a later date:

- Guidelines will be provided to staff about 2nd marking
- No modules will be allowed to have cliff-edge exams at the end of the term, including 100% weighted exams
- Incorporating new structures to make feedback more timely and at least 10 days before the next assignment

Members had the following feedback and comments:

- Faculty of the Built Environment PGT Rep Georgina Wilson-Cousins (GWC) asked if students could get involved with the construction of the new Union building as this would be a good opportunity for them to gain experience. SC said that UCL has already consulted with external architects, but would be happy to speak to UCL about this (**Action: SC to speak to UCL about involving students in the construction of the new Union building**)
- A question was asked about the extent of guidelines and what sort of things they would specify. SC said the guidelines would be extensive and cover everything, and be delivered to markers.
- Faculty of Medical Sciences UG Rep George Ponodath (GP) asked about how these set of guidelines will be different to the previous ones. SC said this one would be an updated set of guidelines compared to the old ones, and strict regulatory compliance will be in place.

7. Leadership Race Promotion

SC notified members that nominations for the [Leadership Race](#) opened yesterday and encouraged people to nominate themselves for a position. Staff signposted resources for this, such as 'Thinking of Nominating Yourself' sessions which can be found on the What's On calendar.

AI also reassured potential candidates to not worry if they don't know anything about any part of the Leadership Race, because support will be provided to you ahead of time to prepare you for the role.

Policy Proposals

8. Fossil Free Careers

SC added context to this policy proposal – it came to Union Exec after passing at WCZ, but due to concerns from UE Zone members, the proposal was sent to Education Zone for discussion first. For more information regarding this, please see the minutes from [WCZ2302](#) and [UE2303](#).

A member of [Climate Action Society \(CAS\)](#) gave a brief presentation on this policy - more information regarding this policy can be found attached to these minutes. Zone members then discussed the proposal. Some comments:

- MG asked CAS if they met with any of the relevant societies since last meeting – they confirmed that they did.
- Some members suggested an alternative approach to implementing fossil free careers at UCL, which is to make students aware of other opportunities instead of outright banning recruiters from campus.
- There was discussion on whether if fossil fuel companies belong on campus, and regarding career options for students once they graduate, particularly in the case of international students who may wish to remain in the UK.
- CAS reminded members that this policy would only affect the Union stance, and UCL would make their own decisions separate to the Union which might affect the execution of the plan in practicality.

This policy proposal was voted on by members:

- 41% voted 'for'
- 45% voted 'against'

A majority voted 'against', meaning that the policy does not pass at Education Zone.

Matters for Discussion, pt. 2

9. Meet the Professor Speaker Series

This item was moved to the next Zone because of time constraints.

10. LGBTQ+ History Month

MG raised awareness of the upcoming LGBTQ+ History Month and events taking place at UCL to celebrate this – slides giving more information about this can be found attached to these minutes.

Matters for Approval

11. Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Minutes approved.

Any Other Business

No other business.

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record	
Chair:	Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer
Signature:	Shaban Chaudhary
Date:	05/02/24